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Attorneys for Specially Appearing Defendant  
DAIMLER AG (formerly known as DaimlerChrysler AG)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

SHELLEY P. ROBINSON, et al.,

No. 3:07cv03258-SC

**Plaintiffs,**

V.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG, et al.,

#### Defendants.

**SPECIALLY APPEARING  
DEFENDANT DAIMLER AG'S  
ANSWER TO COMPLAINT FOR  
PERSONAL INJURY AND DAMAGES**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Complaint Filed: 5/11/07  
Trial Date: 1/12/09

Defendant Daimler AG (formerly known as “DaimlerChrysler AG”), for itself and itself only, without waiving its challenge to personal jurisdiction previously filed in this case, and in answer to the Complaint for Personal Injury and Damages (“Complaint”) filed by plaintiffs, denies and alleges as follows:

## **ANSWER TO FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 1 and, on that basis, denies them.

2. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 2 and, on that basis, denies them.

1       3. In regard to the allegations of paragraph 3, Daimler AG denies, with respect  
 2 to the events and transactions alleged in plaintiffs' Complaint, that any other defendant  
 3 was a duly authorized agent, servant, and/or employee of it, or acted in any manner or  
 4 degree with its consent, permission, authorization, and/or ratification. Daimler AG further  
 5 denies, with respect to the events and transactions alleged in plaintiffs' Complaint, that it  
 6 was the duly authorized agent, servant, or employee of any other defendant, or acted in  
 7 any manner or degree with the consent, permission, authorization, and/or ratification of  
 8 any other defendant. Daimler AG also denies acting with negligence in regard to the  
 9 selection, hiring, and/or supervision of its agent, servant, employee, and/or independent  
 10 contractor, if any there were. Daimler AG admits that it had an indirect shareholder  
 11 interest in DaimlerChrysler Motors Company LLC and DaimlerChrysler Corporation, but  
 12 denies that either entity was the alter ego of Daimler AG and further denies that Daimler  
 13 AG exercised control over either entity, except for such inherent rights incident to its  
 14 indirect shareholder interest. Daimler AG further denies that it was the successor in  
 15 interest to the assets and liabilities of DaimlerChrysler Motors Company LLC or  
 16 DaimlerChrysler Corporation. Daimler AG denies that it has ever acted as the alter ego  
 17 of any other entity and that any other entity has ever acted as its alter ego for any purpose.  
 18 Daimler AG also denies, with respect to the events and transactions alleged in plaintiffs'  
 19 Complaint, that it is liable to plaintiffs for the acts and/or omissions of any other  
 20 defendant or business entity, or that plaintiffs are entitled to any relief whatsoever.  
 21 Daimler AG otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 3.

22       4. With regard to the allegations of paragraph 4, Daimler AG admits that it is an  
 23 *Aktiengesellschaft*, or German stock company, organized and existing under the laws of  
 24 Germany. Daimler AG denies that it is engaged in the business of designing,  
 25 manufacturing, or distributing Jeep Cherokee vehicles like the one at issue in this lawsuit  
 26 for any purpose, but admits that it does design, manufacture, and distribute unrelated  
 27 Mercedes-Benz vehicles within the Federal Republic of Germany. Daimler AG denies  
 28 that it distributes or sells motor vehicles directly to any person or entity in the United

1 States, including California, and further denies that it has any intent to distribute or sell  
 2 motor vehicles directly to any person or entity in the United States, including California.  
 3 Daimler AG denies that it conducts business in California, that it has purposefully availed  
 4 itself of the privilege of conducting business activities in California, and that it has availed  
 5 itself of the benefits and protections of California laws. Daimler AG otherwise denies the  
 6 allegations of paragraph 4.

7       5. Daimler AG admits that DaimlerChrysler Motors Company LLC was, at one  
 8 point, a Delaware limited liability company. Daimler AG is informed and believes that  
 9 this entity is now known as Chrysler Motors LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.  
 10 Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to admit the truth of the remaining  
 11 allegations contained in paragraph 5 and, on that basis, denies them.

12       6. Daimler AG admits that DaimlerChrysler Corporation was, at one point, a  
 13 Delaware corporation. Daimler AG is informed and believes that this entity is now  
 14 known as Chrysler LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. Daimler AG lacks  
 15 knowledge or information sufficient to admit the truth of the remaining allegations  
 16 contained in paragraph 6 and, on that basis, denies them.

17       7. Daimler AG denies that it is engaged in the business of designing,  
 18 manufacturing, distributing, or taking any other action of the type alleged in Paragraph 7  
 19 with respect to Jeep Cherokee vehicles like the one at issue in this lawsuit for any  
 20 purpose, but admits that it does design, manufacture, and sell unrelated Mercedes-Benz  
 21 vehicles and their component parts within the Federal Republic of Germany. All other  
 22 allegations of paragraph 7 pertaining to Daimler AG are denied. Daimler AG lacks  
 23 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining  
 24 allegations in paragraph 7 and, on that basis, denies them.

25       8. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to  
 26 the truth of the allegations contained in paragraph 8 and, on that basis, denies them.  
 27  
 28

**ANSWER TO FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Shelley R. Robinson)**

### **First Count (Negligence)**

9. Daimler AG reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 2 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

10. The allegations of paragraph 10 are denied as to Daimler AG with respect to Jeep Cherokee vehicles like the one at issue in the Complaint. Daimler AG denies that it owed any duty of the type alleged in paragraph 10 to plaintiffs. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 10 and, on that basis, denies them.

11. The allegations of paragraph 11 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 11 and, on that basis, denies them.

12. The allegations of paragraph 12 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 12 and, on that basis, denies them.

13. The allegations of paragraph 13 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 13 and, on that basis, denies them.

14. The allegations of paragraph 14 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 14 and, on that basis, denies them.

15. The allegations of paragraph 15 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 15 and, on that basis, denies them.

## **Second Count (Strict Liability)**

16. Daimler reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 2 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

17. Daimler AG denies that it had any role, in any manner or degree, in the design, manufacture, distribution, or sale of the vehicle that is the subject of the Complaint or its component parts. Daimler AG further denies that the vehicle that is the subject of the Complaint or its component parts were ever in its possession. The allegations of paragraph 17 are therefore denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 17 and, on that basis, denies them.

18. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 18 and, on that basis, denies them.

19. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 19 and, on that basis, denies them.

## Third Count (Breach of Warranty)

20. Daimler reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 2 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

21. The allegations of paragraph 21 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 21 and, on that basis, denies them.

22. The allegations of paragraph 22 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 22 and, on that basis, denies them.

23. The allegations of paragraph 23 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 23 and, on that basis, denies them.

24. The allegations of paragraph 24 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 24 and, on that basis, denies them.

25. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 25 and, on that basis, denies them.

**ANSWER TO SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION  
(Elizaveta M. Hunsinger)**

### **First Count (Negligence)**

26. Daimler reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

27. The allegations of paragraph 27 are denied as to Daimler AG with respect to Jeep Cherokee vehicles like the one at issue in the Complaint. Daimler AG denies that it owed any duty of the type alleged in paragraph 27 to plaintiffs. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 27 and, on that basis, denies them.

28. The allegations of paragraph 28 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 28 and, on that basis, denies them.

29. The allegations of paragraph 29 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 29 and, on that basis, denies them.

30. The allegations of paragraph 30 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 30 and, on that basis, denies them.

31. The allegations of paragraph 31 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 31 and, on that basis, denies them.

32. The allegations of paragraph 32 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 32 and, on that basis, denies them.

## **Second Count (Strict Liability)**

33. Daimler reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

34. Daimler AG denies that it had any role, in any manner or degree, in the design, manufacture, distribution, or sale of the vehicle that is the subject of the Complaint or its component parts. Daimler AG further denies that the vehicle that is the subject of the Complaint or its component parts were ever in its possession. The allegations of paragraph 34 are therefore denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 34 and, on that basis, denies them.

35. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 35 and, on that basis, denies them.

36. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 36 and, on that basis, denies them.

## **Third Count (Breach of Warranty)**

37. Daimler reasserts and reincorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 8 as though fully set forth herein.

38. The allegations of paragraph 38 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 38 and, on that basis, denies them.

39. The allegations of paragraph 39 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 39 and, on that basis, denies them.

40. The allegations of paragraph 40 are denied as to Daimler AG. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in paragraph 40 and, on that basis, denies them.

41. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 41 and, on that basis, denies them.

42. Daimler AG lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 42 and, on that basis, denies them.

**FOR ITS AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES TO EACH CAUSE OF ACTION, WHILE  
SPECIFICALLY DENYING ANY LIABILITY TO PLAINTIFFS OR ANYONE,  
DAIMLER AG ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:**

## **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure to State a Claim)**

1. The Complaint fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted against Daimler AG.

## **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Statute of Limitations)**

2. On information and belief, plaintiffs' Complaint is barred by the applicable statute of limitations pursuant to Code Civil Procedure sections 337, 338, 339, 340, 340.2, 343, 353.1, and/or 474, and California Commercial Code section 2725.

### **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Lack of Personal Jurisdiction)**

3. This court lacks personal jurisdiction over Specially-Appearing Defendant Daimler AG, and the assertion of personal jurisdiction over it in this case would violate the California and United States Constitutions.

## **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Assumption of Risk)**

4. On information and belief, plaintiffs voluntarily, knowingly, and unreasonably entered into and engaged in the operations and conduct alleged in plaintiffs' Complaint and voluntarily and knowingly assumed all alleged risks incident to said operations, acts and conduct at the time and places alleged in plaintiffs' Complaint.

## **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure to Follow Warnings)**

5. On information and belief, plaintiffs were advised, informed, and warned of any potential hazards and/or dangers, if any there were, associated with the normal or foreseeable use, handling, and storage of the products, substances, and equipment described in plaintiffs' Complaint and plaintiffs failed to follow such warnings.

## **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Comparative Fault / Fault of Others)**

6. The losses and damages complained of by plaintiffs, if any, were proximately caused by the negligence, acts, omissions and/or fault of plaintiffs and parties, individuals, or entities other than this Daimler AG.

## **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Willful Misconduct)**

7. On information and belief, plaintiffs were guilty of willful misconduct that proximately contributed to the occurrences complained of in plaintiffs' Complaint and the damage alleged to have been suffered therein, and plaintiffs are therefore precluded from comparing such conduct with the alleged negligence or fault of this answering defendant, if any there was.

## **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Proposition 51)**

8. There are other persons, parties and/or defendants who are at fault and proximately caused plaintiffs' injuries, if any. If this answering defendant is responsible

1 to plaintiffs, which responsibility is expressly denied, this answering defendant is only  
 2 liable for its proportionate share of non-economic damages, if any, as set forth in Civil  
 3 Code section 1431.2.

4

5                   **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 6                   **(Ratification and Consent)**

7                 9. On information and belief, at all times mentioned in the plaintiffs'  
 8 Complaint, plaintiffs acknowledged, ratified, consented to, and acquiesced in the alleged  
 9 acts or omissions, if any, of this answering defendant, thereby barring plaintiffs from any  
 relief as prayed for herein.

10

11                   **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 12                   **(Altered Condition)**

13                 10. On information and belief, the product that allegedly injured plaintiffs was  
 14 altered, changed, or otherwise modified by parties, individuals, or entities other than this  
 15 defendant, and said modifications, changes or alterations were the proximate cause of the  
 damages alleged by plaintiffs, if any.

16

17                   **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 18                   **(Unclean Hands)**

19                 11. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrine of  
 unclean hands and similar rules requiring plaintiffs to do equity to obtain relief.

20

21                   **TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 22                   **(Waiver / Acquiescence / Laches / Estoppel)**

23                 22. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrines  
 24 of waiver, acquiescence, laches and/or estoppel, in that, including without limitation,  
 plaintiffs unreasonably delayed in bringing their claims.

25

26                   **THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 27                   **(Workers' Compensation — Exclusive Remedy)**

28                 27. The Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the matters alleged in  
 plaintiffs' Complaint because said Complaint is barred by the exclusive-remedy

provisions of California Labor Code section 3601 *et seq.* At the time of the injuries alleged in plaintiffs' Complaint, plaintiffs were employed and were entitled to receive worker's compensation benefits from their employers; that all of plaintiffs' employers, other than this answering defendant if applicable, were negligent in and about the matters referred to in plaintiffs' Complaint; that such negligence on the part of said employers proximately and concurrently contributed to the happening of the accident and to the loss or damage complained of by plaintiffs, if any there were; and that by reason thereof, this answering defendant is entitled to set off any such benefits to be received by plaintiffs against any judgment which may be rendered in favor of plaintiffs.

**FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE  
(Failure to Mitigate)**

14. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because plaintiffs failed to mitigate their damages and/or took unreasonable, unnecessary, and/or unduly expensive actions in purported mitigation, and Daimler AG is not responsible therefore.

**FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE  
(Accord and Satisfaction)**

15. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of accord and satisfaction.

**SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE  
(Release)**

16. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by release of those claims.

**SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE  
(Misuse and Abuse)**

17. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of misuse. Upon information and belief, any alleged defects or nonconformities in the subject product were caused solely and exclusively by misuse, abuse, and failure to use the product in the manner in which it was intended and by a failure to follow instructions regarding the product. Such misuse, abuse, and failure to follow instructions on the part

1 of plaintiffs and parties, individuals, and entities other than this answering defendant,  
 2 proximately caused or contributed to the damages complained of, if any there were.  
 3

4                   **EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
                       (Lack of Warranty Coverage)

5           18.     The alleged defect or nonconformity at issue, and any alleged damage  
 6 resulting from the alleged defect or nonconformity at issue, were and are expressly  
 7 excluded from and otherwise not covered by the express written limited warranty  
 8 applicable to the subject product.

9                   **NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 10                (No Warranty)

11           19.     This answering defendant gave no warranties, either express or implied, to  
 12 plaintiffs, and neither plaintiffs nor anyone else ever notified this answering defendant of  
 13 any claim of breach of warranty resulting in plaintiffs' alleged injuries.

14                   **TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 15                (Lack of Privity)

16           20.     Plaintiffs' claims for breach of implied warranty are barred by a lack of  
 17 privity between plaintiffs and this answering defendant.

18                   **TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
 19                (Intervening/Superseding Acts)

20           21.     No act or omission of this answering defendant substantially contributed to  
 21 or was a substantial cause in bringing about the occurrence, damage, or loss alleged in  
 22 plaintiffs' Complaint, including any defect or nonconformity in the subject product. This  
 23 answering defendant further alleges that any act or omission of this defendant was  
 24 superseded by the acts or omissions of plaintiffs and/or by the acts or omission of other  
 25 persons or entities, which acts or omissions were the independent, intervening, and  
 26 proximate cause(s) of the incident, damage, loss defects, and/or nonconformities alleged  
 27 in this action.

## **TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Justiciability)**

22. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of ripeness, mootness, primary jurisdiction, failure to exhaust remedies, and/or other justiciability doctrines.

## **TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Spoliation of Evidence)**

23. On information and belief, plaintiffs and/or their agents negligently and/or intentionally failed to preserve and permitted the spoliation of material evidence including, but not limited to, the product which plaintiffs allege gave rise to the damages alleged in the Complaint. Such conduct bars this action and/or gives rise to liability on the part of plaintiffs for damages payable to this defendant.

## **TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Vagueness of Defect Standard)**

24. The State of California's judicially created definitions of "manufacturing" and "design defects" and the standards for determining whether there has been an actionable failure to warn are unconstitutional in that, among other things, they are void for vagueness and place an undue burden upon interstate commerce, as well as constitute an impermissible effort to regulate in an area that has previously been preempted by the federal government.

## **TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Reservation of Defenses)**

25. The Complaint fails to describe the claims asserted against Daimler AG with sufficient particularity to permit Daimler AG to ascertain what other defenses may exist. Daimler AG therefore reserves the right to assert all defenses that may pertain to the Complaint once the precise nature of such claims has been ascertained.

**WHEREFORE**, Daimler AG prays that judgment be entered as follows:

1. That plaintiffs take nothing by reason of plaintiffs' Complaint on file herein;

2. For judgment in favor of this answering defendant and against plaintiffs on each and every cause of action of plaintiffs' Complaint;

3. That this answering defendant be awarded its cost of suit, including its attorneys fees;

4. That this answering defendant be awarded appropriate credits and setoffs arising out of any payment of worker's compensation benefits as alleged above; and

5. That this answering defendant be awarded such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper and equitable.

Dated: January 29, 2008 Respectfully submitted,

CARROLL, BURDICK & McDONOUGH LLP

By \_\_\_\_\_ / s /  
Matthew J. Kemner  
Attorneys for Specially-Appearing Defendant  
Daimler AG

1                           **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

2                           Daimler AG demands trial by jury in this action of all issues properly triable by  
3                           jury.

4                           Dated: January 29, 2008      Respectfully submitted,

5                           CARROLL, BURDICK & McDONOUGH LLP

6                           By \_\_\_\_\_ / s /

7                           Matthew J. Kemner  
8                           Attorneys for Specially-Appearing Defendant  
9                           Daimler AG

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